

First Edition

JULY 2017



Habitat for Humanity build in tempe

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Tempe First UMC began its involvement with Habitat for Humanity in 1997 and we have participated in the construction of at least one home each year since that time.

Our Mighty United Methodists currently consists of a coalition of about 15 United Methodist churches and our build partners have included both corporate and other faith community sponsors.

In the Fall, we focus on fundraising and, in the Spring, the hammers hit the nails.

Through the Arizona Tax Credit for Qualifying Charitable Organizations, our church generally raises between \$6,500.00 and \$8,000.00 each year toward the \$80,000.00 cost of a Habitat house.

The remainder is raised by our coalition and partners. We need to get a reminder in the First Edition, bulletin and Power Point in November

and December of year end gift giving opportunities, although the donation deadline has now been extended to April 15.

Our coalition meets once or twice in the Fall at the Habitat home office in South Phoenix to discuss fundraising, to choose our next build location and to allocate the build dates among the member churches.



Habitat workers

Our church can expect to be assigned three Saturdays with 8 to 10 volunteers

needed for each date.

We are also expected to provide lunch on one of those dates and sometimes breakfast on another.

For the workers, no tools are needed. Habitat supplies everything, including instruction on how to do the work.

There is a minimum age of 16 for volunteers engaged in construction but there are additional volunteer opportunities for those who cannot build including preparing or serving lunches.

In terms of my personal involvement, I attend the Fall meeting at which each member church makes its pledge and we determine whether we can commit to raising the cost of an entire house or whether financial partners will be needed.

I also attend a second meeting, usually in November, in which the build dates are allocated.

It has been a long tradition for coalition member to provide one volunteer on the first day so that each church has an opportunity to participate in the raising of the outer walls.

My jobs include publicizing the work dates, recruiting volunteers, arranging transportation to the build site, making sure we provide food on our assigned dates, and taking pictures to use in future recruiting.

All volunteers are invited to the dedication ceremony when the keys are turned over to the family. Our Stitch-in-Time group has a long tradition of presenting a quilt or other gift to the family during that ceremony.

Rev. Rosemary Anderson
Director, UrbanOutreach

From the Pastor

I am pleased to report to you that I have been appointed to serve Tempe First United Methodist church for another year!

How time flies; the past year has been a one of change, new beginnings, awesome endings, facility crisis and abundant blessings.

I would like to share some of the projects in the works at Tempe First United Methodist Church. Our church council in conjunction with trustees are working on a plan to make the necessary facility repairs and maintenance as well as a “facelift” to bring our campus up to standards with the rapidly growing community around us.

There is a mixed use (retail and residential) building under construction on the northwest corner of University and Forest. There are plans for a 12-story retirement community to begin construction soon on the southeast corner of University and Mill. We are currently sitting in the hot bed of all that is Tempe!

We can't complete these projects without funding. Church council is functioning as our Capital Campaign Team. Which means, Yes! We are working on developing a 3 year, 1-million-dollar comprehensive capital campaign.

The generous gift of 400K from Eugenia Smart will be our seed money, which means we only need 600K more! Smile.

We have contracted with Debartolo Architects. Jack

Debartolo has served as faculty at ASU and has the gifts and experiences with “Holy Spaces” Jack and his team will work with our team to design a concept of the cosmetic changes that can be made within our budget.

We are also working on a Vision and Mission statement for the church. The leadership team needs your help and input!

Within the next couple of weeks, you will receive a survey to complete. The questions on the survey will help us to discern our Vision and Mission for ministry. This needs to be done to begin our transformation.

The day of learning at annual conference was facilitated by Bishop Schnase, on his book, “Say Yes” to ministry. He talked about identifying ways to serve the needs of our community and then doing it well. Beloved, we are on the right track. We serve our neighbors in need and we do it WELL!

Let's get excited about our new endeavor. Let's have some fun! Let's love like Jesus. Let's step out on faith. Let's become a of light, stability, shelter, hope and worship of the one and true God in downtown Tempe! Are you ready? I am.

Rev. Camille Pentsil
Senior Pastor

THE TRAIN STATION

Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision in which we see ourselves on a long journey that spans an entire continent.

We're traveling by train and from the windows, we drink in the passing scenes of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at crossings, of cattle grazing in distant pastures, of smoke pouring from power plants, of row upon row, upon row, of cotton and corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our conscious minds is our final destination—for at a certain hour and on a given day, our train will finally pull into the Station with bells ringing, flags waving, and bands playing.

And once that day comes, so many wonderful dreams will come true. So restlessly, we pace the aisles and count



Enjoy the journey

the miles, peering ahead, waiting, waiting, waiting for the Station.

“Yes, when we reach the Station, that will be it!” we promise ourselves. “When we're eighteen. . . win that promotion. . . put the last kid

through college. . . buy that Mercedes-Benz. . . have a nest egg for retirement!” From that day on we will all live happily ever after.

Sooner or later, however, we must realize there is no Station in this life, no one earthly place to arrive at once and for all.

The journey is the joy. The Station is an illusion—it constantly outdistances us. Yesterday's a memory, tomorrow's a dream. Yesterday belongs to a history, tomorrow belongs to God. Yesterday's a fading sunset, tomorrow's a faint sunrise. Only today is there light enough to love and live.

So, gently close the door on yesterday and throw the key away. It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad, but rather regret over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow.

Regret and fear are twin thieves who would rob us of today. “Relish the moment” is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24, “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, swim more rivers, climb more mountains, kiss more babies, count more stars. Laugh more and cry less. Go barefoot oftener. Eat more ice cream. Ride more merry-go-rounds. Watch more sunsets. Life must be lived as we go along.

The Station will come soon enough.

PET CONTEST

This contest is for all the children at Tempe First UMC.

Tell me why your pet (any kind of pet) is the best pet in the world. You must submit a picture of your pet along with the a hand printed or written description, of why your pet should win this contest.

There will be a 1st prize for each age group. And winners will be based on the picture quality and best written explanation.

Send your entries to the church office by July 25th. Entries will be reviewed and the winner announced at the end of July.

We will feature an article about the contest in the August newsletter and post pictures on the bulletin board by Baker Center.

Parents you may help with taking the pictures but please let your child(ren) write their own story.



What is your pet? dog, cat, fish, gerbil parrot, snake frog or?????????

Vacation Bible School 7/10-14 “Fuel The Factory ‘

We’re gathering snack supplies to feed all the hungry kids who come to our Maker Fun Factory VBS. Next time you are at the grocery store, drop a few of the listed items into your cart; then bring them to the church by Sunday July 9th.

We also need all the volunteers that signed up to bring sandwiches for lunch, juice boxes and other snacks for the children. Please contact the church office at 480-967-3376 to confirm what you will bring and when you will be dropping the lunches and snacks off.

Remember VBS is from 9- noon.

Walk to Emmaus

(Actually Sit To Emmaus)

The next opportunity to experience God’s overwhelming and abundant love is coming up in October. Do you remember Rev. Stressman’s sermon about the two men who met Christ on their way to Emmaus after the crucifixion? Roger ended by saying that we could experience the presence of God as those two men did at the Methodist Church’s Emmaus Weekend. The next weekend retreat is scheduled in October at Paradise Valley UMC. The dates are October 12 to 15 for men and October 19 to 22 for women.

Deadline for applications is August 15. The weekend begins on Thursday night and ends Sunday evening. At Emmaus you will spend 3 busy but enjoyable days in a retreat setting, living and studying together in song, prayer, worship and discussion.

Applications are available in the church office. If you are interested give your name to Yolanda in the



Walk to Emmaus

church office, Pastor Rosemary, Sonia Burns, or Chuck Rowell .

Adult Bible Study

Upcoming adult bible study starting July 9 through July 30. The bible study will be “The Christ Files” and is about uncovering the ancient sources of information we have about Jesus.

Classes will be held in Baker center after worship.

People are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

ITEM OF THE MONTH

In July our shower ministry for homeless guests needs deodorant and razors. We also need casseroles of any size!

Also, plastic grocery bags, toothbrushes (there is plenty of toothpaste) and Q-tips.

Thank you for helping our homeless community in these ways.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The summer Sunday school schedule at Tempe First is still the same.

Children begin worship with their families and then are dismissed to their classes.

Sunday school for preschool children will continue throughout the summer months. And there will be a one room Sunday School class for the younger children.

On the first Sunday of the month older children and youth are invited to remain in worship for the service of Holy Communion.

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TIME DATED MATERIALS
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY.

VOLUNTEERS FOR VBS

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School.

We need you to help with leading the children, playing games, teaching and of course we need volunteers to bring snacks and lunches for all our children.

Lets make this a wonderful week for the children.

Call Pastor Rosemary to volunteer.
480-967-3376

The Atheist and The Bear!

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the evolution had created. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!", he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing. He ran even faster, so scared that tears were coming to his eyes. He



The Christian bear

looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the Atheist cried out "Oh my God!..." Time stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

Even the river stopped moving.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky, "You deny my existence for all of these years; teach others I don't exist; and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as Christian now, but perhaps could you make the bear a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice.

The light went out.

The river ran again.

And the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear dropped his right paw brought both paws together... bowed his head and spoke:

"Lord, for this food which I am about to receive, I am truly thankful...

AMEN!"



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